

December 15, 2005  
ATV Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting brought to order at 10 AM.

**Council Members Present:** Mark Doty, Carl Campbell, Dan Mitchell, Scott Nadeau, Paul Bernier, Jon Olson, Bill Swan, Joe Benzing, David Anderson, Mike Sawyer.

**Absent Members:** Nancy Sferra, Tom Santaguida

**Department of Conservation employees Present:** Brian Bronson and Scott Ramsay

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the December 2, 2005 meeting were approved with the following change: Page 2 # 2 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence “ It is pointed out...” change to read as follows: It was pointed out that written landowner permission is only required for ATVs to ride on cropland, which by definition does not include planted seedlings or natural regeneration or managed woodlands regardless of the acreage involved.

### **New Business**

Review of Approved Heritage Grant projects. One of the approved projects was \$25,000 for an interactive ATV Safety Video and DVD. This was a recommendation made by the Governors ATV Task Force. A couple of Towns were approved to purchase ATVs. A copy of the complete list of the approved Heritage Grants will be attached to the minutes.

Talked about the Fish & Wildlife ATV Law Enforcement Grants. There will be less money available next year than the \$100,000 they gave out this year. Not sure why but it may have to do with the Gas Tax revenues being down. Gas Tax Revenues are off by about 1½ percent, which may be part of the reason but certainly wouldn't account for the entire reduction. Dan is going to follow up with the Department on this.

Discussion followed on the club member discount proposals. The clubs present at the ATV Maine meeting voted for Option # 2 which is \$30 for club members and \$60 for non-club members. Residents and non-residents would be treated the same.

Some discussion followed on the difference between ATV and snowmobile fees and the splits. While it would be nice if they were the same they aren't now and it is unlikely that will ever happen.

Discussion followed on what it would take to Implement this. The dealers could help buy becoming registration agents and ATV Maine will have to commit to a full time employee to maintain a web site and handle the paperwork. It will also require changes at Fish & Wildlife but it is manageable and they are supportive of the idea if everyone else is.

Further discussion followed on the public's perception of fees, taxes and other costs. Many ATVers are still upset about the large ATV Registration fee increase that happened

a couple of years ago. Some will see this as a reduction and some will see it as an increase. There was also discussion about how to get the fair amount of gas tax reimbursed to the ATV trails.

## LUNCH

After lunch there was a motion and second to approve proposal # 2. Further discussion followed and the decision was made to table it until giving everyone a chance to polo their members. The target date to submit your vote to Dan and copy Brian is January 5<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion now went to reviewing the Phase 2 and 3 items that weren't implemented and haven't been already reviewed.

Phase 2 # 1&2 have been discussed and or addressed

#3 Some of the Towns have purchased machines and the Warden service has purchased some additional machines so slow headway is being made on this.

#4 & #5 The first law enforcement academy was held in August and they are planning on this being an annual program.

#7 & #8 The Department of Conservation has completed the public awareness video; ATV Maine and the Department of Fish & Wildlife are planning on completing the Safety Video next year. The ATV Map is in the works.

Additional staffing would greatly help with these issues.

Phase 3 #1 This can't be done if the club member discount proposal is going to move forward because MSA isn't interested in doing this.

#2 This will likely be very expensive and probably take an additional staff person to manage. The Department of Fish & Wildlife's Landowner Advisory Council is also discussing the issue and is attempting to find a solution. The damage issue is one that involves more than just the ATVs. The best answer may be for ATV Maine to be on these other committees so they can help find the solutions. The motion was made and passed unanimously that the Advisory Council recommend ATV Maine be a formal member of the Landowner Advisory Council and other similar groups. It may also be a good idea for the Department of Conservation to try and develop an inventory of damaged areas.

#3, 10, 11, & 12 Discussion followed on what is being spent and what recommendations would cost. Some of these might be able to be lumped together to be more efficient. Mike will put together a recommendation for changes and the dollar costs before the next meeting. Currently his ATV budget is \$62,000 a year.

#4 & 8 No one present from the warden service so Dan will follow up with the Department on these.

#5 & 6 Because of the opposition to this last time it went before the Legislature the consensus is that no recommendation be made.

#7 Already covered and made a recommendation

#9 We are continuing to work on new trails and also a map of the trails. There is no money at the moment dedicated for sport riding areas. The committee should discuss the breakdown and use of the Recreational Trail Fund in the future.

#13 & 14 Some of this has been done and some more started but more needs to be done. Maybe the dealers or manufacturers would be willing to help with some funding and or dissemination of material.

#15& 16 Brief discussion but out of time. Will be discussed further at the next meeting, which will be on January 20<sup>th</sup> at the Maine Forest Products Council building in Augusta. This will also be from 10 AM to 3 PM

Adjourned at 3:10 PM

### **Voting Results Summary:**

1. Amended Minutes from December 05, 2005 with Joe Benzings comments
2. Motion made seconded that the ATV Registration be \$60 for non-club members and \$30 for club members. After discussion it was tabled giving members to poll their groups and respond to Dan and Brian by January 5th
3. Motion made and passed unanimously for the recommendation that ATV Maine be added to the Landowner Advisory Council and other similar groups so they can help formulate solutions.